



“The Complete Connection”

Sales • Service • Internet • Web Services

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Dear Sirs,

As the owner of a small, rural ISP and CLEC, I would like to voice my strong opposition to NPRM 02-33. Since many comments have been posted voicing similar opposition, I will simply summarize a number of the recurring points supporting this position.

1. Wireless, more than any other landline service, possesses an inherent advantage for deployment in rural areas. Market forces will sufficiently and expeditiously drive the deployment of wireless broadband in rural areas. Subsidizing the ILEC's to accomplish this would most likely hinder the process. ISP's and CLEC's competing with cable companies and ILEC's for broadband services in non-rural areas are forced to trim margins and expand marketing costs to survive in this highly competitive arena. Providing wireless broadband to rural markets, where IPS's generally already have an installed base of customers and are not competing against the large cable companies and ILEC's, is a very lucrative proposition.
2. ISP's and CLEC's, especially those serving rural markets, generally have limited administrative staff resources. Adding the additional administrative responsibilities of collecting USF fees places an undue burden on these smaller companies, thus hurting their ability to deliver the very services the USF was created for.
3. It is unquestionable that the ILEC's have, and will continue to, engage in unfair, monopolistic activities to squeeze out competition. As a CLEC I can attest to that first hand. Placing additional USF funds under their control will undoubtedly further this problem.

Sincerely,

Joe Mattausch
President: TC3Net